

Drawing Amendments

Please substitute the replacement drawing sheets of Figures 4 and 5, for original Figures 4 and 5.

Please insert the new drawing sheet, Figure 6 in the application.

REMARKS

This application has been amended by making corrections to the specification and abstract, Figures 4 and 5, adding a new Figure 6, and amending claims 1 and 5. Claims 1-9 remain in the application for consideration.

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure, as containing claim style form and legalistic jargon. The abstract has been rewritten, and is believed to overcome this objection.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because reference numeral 52 identified two different components. Page 8 of the application and figure 4 of the drawings have been amended to correct this inconsistency. The sprocket in figure 4 has been given new reference numeral 53. It is believed that this correction overcomes the objection.

The Examiner has required a new drawing showing the guide plate and its associated slots, to facilitate understanding of the invention. A new sheet of drawings, with Figure 6 is enclosed. The specification has been amended to identify and refer to this new drawing. No new matter has been entered in the drawing or the amendments to the specification.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular the Examiner asserts that the specification fails to teach how an object transfers from the first segment to the second. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the

addition of new figure 6 assists in clarifying the claimed subject matter, such that the claims are fully enabled.

It is believed that the description of the invention found on page 8 of the specification fully and clearly describes this transfer, with the assistance of new Figure 6. As shown in new Figure 6, the angled portion of slot 50 causes a specimen carrier conveyed on segment 26a to slide over on to segment 26b of the conveyor. Because segments 26a and 26b are in the same plane, the specimen carrier easily slides from one segment to another, as it is directed by the sidewalls of the slot. This same action occurs in adjacent slot 52.

It is believed that the new Figure 6, and the corrected description, is now fully enabling of the subject matter of the claims. It is therefore believed that this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular the Examiner asserts that the relationship between the tracks of lines 1 and 4 in claim 1 is unclear. In addition, the Examiner cited a typo in claim 5. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended, and it is believed that these rejections have been overcome.

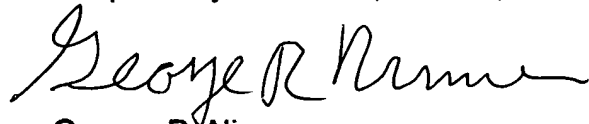
In claim 1, the preamble of the claim has been amended to more clearly call for a drive apparatus, and not a track. The preamble simply calls for a drive unit that is to be used on a conveyor track, and does not specifically recite a track. Line 4 of claim one specifically calls for a track of the type having a continuous loop conveyor. It is believed that this amendment overcomes the ambiguity cited by the Examiner.

Claim 5 has been amended to delete the letter "d" in the last line of the claim. It is believed that the cited typo has been corrected, and that this claim is now clear and definite.

A replacement set of drawings for Figures 4 and 5 are enclosed, along with a new sheet of drawings including Figure 6. Figure 4 has been corrected to change reference numeral "52" to "53". Figure 5 has only been amended to include additional reference numerals, for clarity of the description. Figure 6 has been added at the request of the Examiner, to clarify the description of the invention. It is requested that Figures 4 and 5 be substituted for the originally filed drawings of this application, and that new Figure 6 be added.

For the reasons above, it is believed that all of the objections and rejections have been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George R. Nimmer".

George R. Nimmer
Registration No. 21,004
Attorney of Record
PO Box 252
Omaha, NE 68101-0252

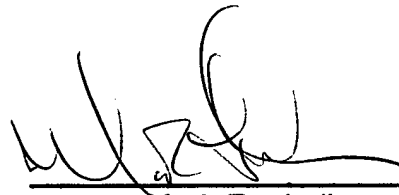


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that the original document for application **Ser. No. 10/626,463** enclosed herewith, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
PO BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

on this 20th day of November, 2005.



Mark Frederiksen